Tribal status to Pahari in Jammu and Kashmir

2399. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the duly recommended case of Pahari-Pathari-speaking tribes of the Jammu and Kashmir is pending before Government for conferment of scheduled tribes status to them for the last more than 12 years;

(b) whether it is a fact that a year or so back, when the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee was on tour to Kashmir, he assured a huge gathering at "Karnah' that this status would be conferred to the Pahari-people of Jammu and Kashmir without further delay; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Hon'ble Prime Minister while addressing a public rally at Karnah in Kashmir in 1998 had announced that the proposal of Pahari speaking people seeking ST status will receive consideration of the Government.

Demand of ST status Certain Communities in Himachal Pradesh

2400. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has demanded that some more communities may be given the scheduled tribe status in the State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after the reorganization, the same community living in different areas of the State are having different status; and

(c) if so, the response of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The socio-economic conditions of a community may vary from region to region within a State. Hence the variation in specification.